WORLD NEWS AND VIEWS

Vol. 21 No. 42 October 18, 1941 3d

Published Weekly

CONTENTS

New Strategic Position in the West	659	*The Fund*	664
Work—Train—For Victory	660	*Editorial*	665
The Two Hundred per cent Movement	661	*Anti-Hitler Forces*	666
Italians do not want to Fight	663	*India*	669
		Religious Freedom in the U.S.S.R.	671

STALIN TO BEAVERBROOK AND YOU

"You can produce arms," he said. "You are a manufacturing race. You will have a big output before long. Too many arms perhaps in three or four years. But it is not enough to turn out arms from your factories. YOU MUST ALSO SUSTAIN AND DEVELOP THE SPIRIT WHICH ENABLES THE PEOPLE TO BEAR ARMS."

Man-Power and Woman-Power

By WILLIAM RUST

IS ministerial complacency at last being disturbed by the informed criticism of the state of war production made in Parliament and the Press? Unfortunately, this is hardly the case. Lord Beaverbrook has made a vigorous call for tanks and aircraft, but there are no new moves towards a single plan and firm Government control, and there is no indication that vested interests are to be ruthlessly dealt with. On no account, therefore, can this vital political matter be left where it is.

Along with the question of the second front, the question of production continues to occupy the centre of the political stage. Parliamentary debates may be started from a particular aspect of the problem, like the one on man-power last week, but they quickly turn into a political controversy over general strategy, thus revealing that the basic cause of the bad state of affairs in industry is to be found in the conflicts within the ruling class, the weaknesses of the Government and the heavy weight of obsolete traditions.

At the beginning of the war, during the period of the sitzkrieg, when Chamberlain was still hopeful that appeasement might have its second blooming, war production was not much more than an elaborate pretence. The Fall of France produced many exhortations and a bigger drive. The alliance with the Soviet Union, which transformed the war and brought new opportunities and obligations, has centred attention on the production front as never before.

Nevertheless, there are sections of the ruling class who, far from realising the urgency of the situation, still toy with the infamous Chamberlainite conception that Britain will become strong by standing aside while the Nazis

attack the Soviet Union. Hatred of Socialism has poisoned the intellect and given a Fascist flavour to these sections. The lesson of France has no meaning for them.

Other sections, while understanding that the interests of Britain and the Soviet Union are inseparable, nevertheless remain under the influence of the tradition that allies should do the fighting while British workshops produce munitions and the Navy guards the sea. This view was expressed in the man-power debate, surprisingly enough, by Miss Megan Lloyd George, who stated that we have a "superiority of military man-power since Russia came into the war . . . our lack is still in the capacity to equip that man-power." She received the endorsement of Sir Leonard Lyle, who argued for a small, highly mechanised army.

The exponents of this traditional strategy are also very vocal in their criticism of the Government for calling up skilled men for the armed forces. The idea of an immediate second front against Fascism has been rigidly excluded from their dream world; they are oblivious of the fact that all they stand for will be crushed in blood and filth if the Nazis are enabled in the coming months, because of our failure to sustain the Soviet Union through the development of a second front, to turn the weight of iron-shod armies against this island.

This controversy about the army v. industry has raised false and misleading issues, which have certainly not been cleared as a result of the Bevin-Citrine slanging match. Neither did the man-power debate provide the required clarity.

The question of man-power can be solved only from the standpoint of general strategy. The disagreement on the latter is the cause of the confusion on the former.

This war will be bitter and prolonged. Britain requires the largest possible army that it can equip and train. To concentrate on industry, the navy and the air force, relegating the army to a subsidiary role, would be folly bordering on defeatism. It would be as if a man engaged in a life and death struggle with a savage opponent refused to make full use of all his limbs.

But, say the opponents of the large army, including some trade union officials who do not like to see their members leaving the workshops for the barracks, we cannot denude industry of man-power, our human resources are limited and therefore the claims of the army must be limited. Some credence is given to this argument by the obvious mistakes made in the mining and agriculture industries, where the over-call-up has had a bad effect on production. Such errors can, however, be put right by administrative action; it would be entirely wrong to draw conclusions for industry as a whole from these examples.

One would imagine from the leisurely way in which this argument is pursued that time is on our side and that the man-power, having been successfully mobilised, needs only to be suitably divided between industry and the armed forces. This is a wholly false picture.

Man-power has in no sense been fully mobilised. Above all, the immense reserves represented by the woman-power of this country have yet to be drawn on. It is surely incredible that a country like Britain, now fighting for its very existence, should so dilly-dally with the question of mobilising women and that so many prominent politicians and union leaders should be almost totally blind to the vitally important role that women have got to play in industry and the auxiliary forces.

It is literally true that the future of this country now depends on the ability of the Government to organise, train and equip its woman-power.

Even Bevin, who has quite rightly insisted on the importance of women, endeavours to give a picture of things achieved which hardly corresponds to realities. He states that 40,000 to 50,000 are being interviewed every week, but why did he not tell Parliament how many of these are being absorbed in industry and the forces? We have reason to believe that only a small percentage of those registered have actually been absorbed.

Remarks about "we must not forget the lesson of our youth, that in handling women you must proceed gently," are more suitable for the drawing-room than the Parliament of a country at death grips with the Fascist beasts. In any case, this is not a sex question, but a matter affecting hours and conditions and the special needs of the women. In a document to be submitted to the London Women's Parliament on October 26, it is stated that:

> "The women of this country are ready and anxious to get on with the job. They do not object to compulsion, seeing in it a way to ensure all-round equality and to prevent the few idlers from dodging their share. But thousands of women who want to volunteer find that there are a number of things which make it difficult or impossible for them to undertake a war job and to give their best in it. The most important of these are: low wages, insufficient day nurseries, long working hours and consequent shopping difficulties, bad canteens and inadequate transport."

These matters have already been brought to the notice of Parliament. After having criticised Miss Lloyd George, it is only fair to state that she also strongly argued that unsuitable conditions were a great barrier to the industrial mobilisation of women. She demanded a minimum wage of 50s. a week. Miss Cazalet and Lady Astor have also voiced the sharp feeling in favour of more nurseries.

Another important aspect of the work of women concerns the attitude of the male trade unionists. In many factories there is a hostile attitude towards women workers, a reluctance to train them so that they can quickly become efficient workers. This hide-bound craft outlook must be broken with all speed; it is terribly harmful to the anti-Fascist cause.

The full utilisation of the woman-power of this country depends, of course, upon the extent to which the Government really gets a grip on industry as a whole. If Bevin can say that he has got almost all the women he requires for industry, it can only be because such little progress has been made in the full placing of the country on a war basis. Further light may be thrown on this question when the Ministry of Labour completes its man-power survey during the coming week.

It is also to be hoped that the Shop Stewards' Conference on Production this weekend will be able to give time to a discussion on the man-power problem and the great role that women are now called upon to play.

Balkan Front

It is reported from Zurich that according to information received by one of the Diplomatic Missions the guerilla movement in Yugoslavia has spread far and wide. Half of Serbia, Bosnia and a great part of Montenegro has been cleared of the occupationists. Big guerilla detachments are operating on the rest of the territory of Yugoslavia. Guerilla detachments besiege towns where occupation troops are concentrated and attack objectives of strategic importance. Valjevo is encircled by guerilla fighters. The guerillas have taken several hundred German soldiers and officers prisoner. On September 27 guerillas occupied the town of Uzice.

The New Strategic Position in the West

This article from "Krasny Flot" has attracted great attention, as it sets out the new possibilities of British military action which arise from Soviet resistance. This is the complete text.

By YERMASHEV (in "Red Fleet")

THE creation of the anti-Hitler coalition has brought about a new line-up of the forces in this war. Ranged against the Hitler tyranny are the world's three greatest Powers. The anti-Hitler coalition is the basis of a genuine world anti-Hitler front.

The Moscow Conference was a new and powerful demonstration of the consolidation of this front. Its decisions show that the anti-Hitler powers are fully aware of the fact that in the present stage of the war the Eastern front has become the main front, in as much as Hitler's clique has concentrated all its forces here in the desperate hope of seizing the Soviet Union's resources for the further struggle to attain world domination.

Nazis Vulnerable in the West

Having massed all its forces at the Soviet front the German high command has been compelled to expose its front in the West. The whole of the Reich's army, at least nine-tenths of its cadres, is engaged in a colossal battle already in its fourth month. American military observers placed Germany's strength in June of this year at 260 active divisions, not counting the reserve units. Hitler has concentrated 170 divisions for the attack on the U.S.S.R. His army has sustained terrific losses and all German reserves had to be shifted to the Eastern front to make good this loss. It can be said that no less than 200 Nazi divisions are now fighting in the East. The German High Command had to withdraw from the Western Front all the forces that could be spared and it now has hardly more than 25-30 divisions, weak ones at that, stationed in France.

All the Panzers, Most of the Planes in the East

All of Germany's Panzer divisions are at the Eastern front. According to recent reports German heavy artillery, hitherto stationed on fortified positions on the Western shores of France, Norway, Denmark, Belgium and Holland, are also despatched to the Eastern front. Practically all of Germany's air force is concentrated in the East. Only the air fleet under Field Marshal Sperle now remains on the coast of the North Sea and Atlantic, all the other air armies are engaged in the operations at the Eastern front. In other words, the war in the East has engaged all of Hitler's forces at one front.

This factor is of tremendous importance, for today, as never before, Hitler is extremely vulnerable in the West. The invasion menace which for a whole year hovered over Britain, has to a large extent been obviated, for Hitler cannot undertake such a risky operation at present.

Britain is Stronger

The second feature of the present strategic position is that during the past year Britain's fighting strength has grown substantially, and not only relatively but in absolute figures. An American war commentator, Hansen Baldwin, in one of his articles wrote, that in June the British army had no less than 100 divisions. According to Baldwin the prime factor in the victory over Hitler is "total effort" and rapid action by the anti-Hitler powers, for Hitler's "total war" must be counteracted by an equally universal and total effort.

One cannot but agree with this viewpoint of Baldwin. Nevertheless, let us bear in mind that this was written in early June, when Baldwin did not foresee that Germany's entire war machine would be pressed into action in the East. Since then Hitler has exposed his front and rear in the West and a new prospective is opened for Britain's armed forces. The British air force, for example, is no longer faced with the problem of winning superiority, or even domination in the air, in hard-fought battles and at the cost of heavy losses, it already dominates in the air. Hitler has been forced to give up any further attempts to make the Luftwaffe master of the air over Great Britain, indeed, he finds it difficult to defend Germany's own air frontiers. But there remains the other factor, the navy. Its importance to Great Britain is well known. Following France's defeat, the British fleet bore the brunt of the war and Britain owes much to her seamen who saved the country from the menace of a starvation blockade, isolation from the rest of the world and greatly diminished the danger of invasion.

Eastern Front and Atlantic

To what degree has Hitler Germany's attack on the Soviet Union influenced the alignment of forces on the basic naval theatre, the Atlantic, and on the sea approaches to Great Britain? We can say without exaggeration that Hitler was forced to give up any attempt at decisive actions on the high seas. This, of course, is a direct consequence of the transfer of Germany's basic surface fleet and to a large extent under-water fleet and naval air force to the Eastern front.

Germany's basic sea forces are now concentrated in the Baltic and Barents seas. Germany built up a large submarine fleet numbering apparently up to 250 units. The American Admiral Pratt expressed the view that only one-third of this fleet or 83 submarines can operate simultaneously on British communications. Undoubtedly the operations in the Baltic and Barents seas necessitated the use of no less than half of Germany's under-water craft. This means that no more than 40-45 submarines are available for the operations in the Atlantic.

And if the last months reveal a perceptible decline in the German submarine surface and aircraft activity on the Atlantic communications, if the general strategic situation of this major naval theatre is more advantageous for the anti-Hitler powers and particularly Great Britain, an important part in bringing this about was played by the Soviet navy, which immobilised the basic Nazi naval forces, inflicting telling losses on them.

Nor is this all. Taking into account the comparatively short period of naval operations in the East, it can be said that the German naval losses in the Baltic and Barents seas are relatively higher than during any other period of the present war.

New Openings for the Navy

We need hardly point out what all this means for Great Britain. The diversion of Germany's basic naval forces to the East opened up new possibilities for the British fleet too. The British fleet now has the greater liberty of action. In particular it can make much more intensive use of its numerous units of light forces and auxiliary craft, for these are no longer tied down to home ports in anticipation of a German landing to the same degree as in the past.

On the whole the British navy is in a position to force its will on the enemy and deliver crushing blows by active operations. Germany's entire naval strategy, ever since June last year, rests on the utilisation of the bases on the coasts of Norway, Denmark, Holland, Belgium and France. These bases are at present, to a considerable extent, exposed. The complete destruction of these bases would bring a radical change in the entire sea situation of the present war and the sword of Damocles, which for many months menaced Great Britain, would come down on Hitler. It is clear, therefore, that determined active fighting collaboration of the anti-Hitler powers in the East or West would have far-reaching repercussions. What is most important now is, to use Baldwin's words, total effort and rapid action on all anti-Hitler fronts.

Work—Train—Serve—Fight for Victory

ON Saturday October 11, at the Royal Albert Hall in London, there took place one of the most important and significant events in the history of the World Youth Movement.

Those who do not grasp its historic meaning are missing a milestone in the march of progress.

Reminiscent of the days when London was the centre of the fiery radicalism of the World in the last century, the International Youth Rally for Victory will attract all that is best in young people everywhere.

When on the morning after, a recording of the "declaration of purpose to the youth of the World" was broadcast in the European service of the B.B.C., these words rung round Europe:

"We young people from many lands gathered together in this great International Rally for Victory take this solemn pledge:

"We will never rest until the World has been freed from the plague of Nazism and Fascism.

"We will be the spearhead of the fight for freedom. The march of present day Germany has brought destruction, cruelty and hatred in its wake, and thrown down a challenge to every decent, human impulse, to every spiritual value. We take up this challenge. We are young; life with its aspirations is before us. By the strength of our arms, the unity of our purpose and the justice of our cause, we will vanquish this enemy of all mankind.

"We fight also for the future, in every land young people have known economic crises, depressions and wars for which they were not responsible. We strive for a social order in which there shall be justice, freedom and security for all, where man is equal to man, irrespective of colour, race or creed. We will create a world where every nation may freely decide its destiny, where the riches of nature are available to all and where no man lives in fear."

The culture of the nations, their National costumes and peoples' songs, the fighting songs of Warsaw by the Polish Army choir who, marching along together with the Canadian Army Songsters, struck a note of youthfulness and energy.

Messages from the King, Mr. Churchill and many other prominent personages and the Speech of Mr. Ernest Bevin, the Minister of Labour and National Service set the seal of National and International approval upon what was being done.

The most significant demonstration of the feeling of youth was the terrific outburst of cheering in response to the message from M. Maisky, the Soviet Ambassador, and again later when a Soviet airman read an appeal from the Soviet Youth.

A fortnight earlier, the Soviet Youth had themselves organised an International Anti-Fascist Youth Rally, and between the two Rallies, scores of messages from groups of young people in the two countries were interchanged and the Rally in London received a stirring message signed by Federov, Hero of the Soviet Union and Chairman of the Moscow Rally.

The International Youth Rally for Victory is but a beginning, its work is just commencing, and it remains to further the ideas and the pledges made.

British youth above all have now the responsibility of setting the example. If the Rally leads to a closer nation-wide co-ordination of efforts by every section of young people, including those not in any kind of organisation, it will have fulfilled one of the most difficult and urgent National tasks.

In this short British youth declaration, there is the basis for successfully solving this problem:

"British Youth, Young people of the great Dominions, Youth of the Allies now in this country—let us make this island an arsenal. Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen, Young Women in the Forces, prepare for the day when we shall strike in the West. Young workers in the factories—roll out the tanks, the planes and the guns. Young people on the land, help build up our sources of food. Youth in the Service Squads, Training Corps, Civil Defence and Home Guard—add to our strength.

"Let us work on shoulder to shoulder, with each one taking his place in the forces, the field or the factory. Let our motto be "Work—Train—Serve and Fight for Victory."

MICK BENNETT.

Convention Call

The People's Convention, at its Working Committee on Thursday, October 9, agreed to the following message being sent to Mr. Churchill: The grave situation demands all effective aid to the Soviet Union on land, sea, and air. The message calls for immediate British action in the West, and points out that "the moment has arrived when the British Navy, Army and Air Force can take a decisive action in the West. Hitler now more than ever before is exceedingly vulnerable in the West." The British people are prepared to support to the end any action, however audacious, that takes advantage of our opportunity before it is too late. The People's Convention urges the implementation of our pledges of maximum action on a common front.

In addition to this Convention has sent out a general call to Convention Committees throughout the country, is supplying leaflets for immediate distribution and calling for meetings and telegrams to Members of Parliament demanding a second front on the basis of this message to the Prime Minister.

Saudi Arabia Anti-Fascist

Axis agents have long tried to secure a foothold in Saudi Arabia, especially as it is the only truly independent Arab country and therefore occupies a key position in the Arab nationalist movement.

According to a *New York Times* report on August 31, King Ibn Saud refused to allow Dr. Fritz Grobba, who has carried on Axis intrigues in Syria and Iraq, to remain in Saudi Arabia, even though he was accredited by the Nazis as Minister there.

Also the Axis bombing of Cairo has aroused fury throughout the Arab world and the Saudi Arabian Government has sent a note of sympathy to the Egyptian Government expressing strong indignation against this crime.

The Two Hundred per cent. Movement

"THE war against German Fascism has brought all our people to their feet," wrote "Pravda" in its editorial on October 5. "Part of the Soviet people, with rifles in hand, are defending their Fatherland; the other is working in the rear making tanks and aeroplanes and manufacturing shells, preparing ammunition for the soldiers, securing fuel, smelting metals, reaping the harvest and in every possible way assisting the front."

During the days of the war for the Fatherland, in our factories and works, in transport and agriculture, emulation increases and gives birth to thousands and thousands of new heroes of labour. This emulation gave rise to the "Two hundred per cent" movement, which grows more powerful from day to day.

Stakhanovite Slogan of Today

Our workers are no longer satisfied with their pre-war plan figures. They well understand that at the present moment, when it is necessary to raise the output of military production, it is impossible to feel satisfied with yesterday's achievements. It is now necessary to do the work of two or three people. This is the Stakhanovite slogan of the present day.

The movement of the "Two hundreds" has grown particularly since the war began, and now tens of thousands of Soviet workers heroically help the front by daily fulfilling their plans by 200 per cent and more.

In the Moscow coal basin there are whole sectors where brigades give hundreds of times their planned quotas per shift. In the Ribinsk printing works, a brigade led by Young Communist Gussev, completes two tasks per shift and the brigadier himself fulfils his plan by 300 to 350 per cent. The Brigade of the famous oil-borer, of the Bugoroslan oilfield, Comrade Demkov, bored in one month a depth of more than 1,000 metres instead of the stipulated 500 metres. There are many such examples.

The movement of the "Two hundreds" is deeply patriotic. It lends itself to developing a tremendous increase in the productivity of labour, whilst at the same time increasing general production. The task now consists of heading this movement, leading the movement and securing the necessary conditions to encourage its growth. It is necessary widely to popularise the movement of the "Two hundreds," and the methods of outstanding workers must be made known to the wide masses. Production meetings, devoted to the achievements of the movement should be organised, at which the work of groups and individuals should be discussed and experiences exchanged, and every possible method should be used to promote the mass development of this movement.

Responsibility of Technicians

The further growth of the Stakhanovite and "Two hundreds" movement is dependent to a large extent on the leaders of industry. To help the "Two hundred" movement means to see that equipment is in full working order, to provide the workers with the necessary implements and instruments, to supply raw materials and semi-manufactured goods in good time. Engineers and technicians must assist the workers in every way to increase the productivity of their labour, and must also find ways and means of economising in raw materials and squeezing out of technique everything that it can give.

Engineers and technicians must quickly grasp the full significance of ideas put forward by the Stakhanovites, and assist them in every way by helping them on the technical side to completely develop their new ideas, which can be of advantage to industry by raising the output or decreasing costs or improving the quality of production. The "Two hundred" movement does not in any way decrease the responsibility of the leaders of industry, but, on the contrary, increases their responsibility of seeing that all workers are able to achieve the successes of the foremost workers.

Owing to the war many highly qualified workers have gone to the front, and their places have been taken over by new workers who are in need of assistance and guidance. To teach these new people technique and the mastery of their machines, and to see that in the shortest possible time they are able to gain the experience of the Stakhanovites—such is the task of the leaders of industry, and the same task lies before the Stakhanovites of the "Two hundred" movement. They can, and they must, pass on their experience, and also teach their methods to the newcomers.

Extend the Movement

The achievement of fulfilling the daily plan is not just the individual responsibility of the workers. Direct responsibility for this must also be borne by engineers, technicians and machine-setters. Here the interests of the State correspond with the personal interests of the workers. The State is interested in the workers mastering new production as quickly as possible, and in the fulfilment and overfulfilment of plans, and every worker is interested in earning wages corresponding to the work he does.

The question of the productivity of labour must receive the complete attention of all industrial leaders, Party and Trade Union organisations. We cannot rest if there is even one department in a single factory not completing its plan. The ranks of the Stakhanovites and the "Two Hundred" movement must grow.

All the necessary conditions are present for giving the "Two Hundred" movement a more mass character. The heroic working class of our country has always displayed selfless devotion to work. This selfless devotion has triumphed before, and will now, when danger threatens our country. Leaders of industry, Party, Trade Union and Young Communist organisations must lead these wartime Stakhanovites, and devote all their energy to the all-round increase in production which is necessary for the defeat of the Hitlerite dogs.

Ordinary terms of subscription to
WORLD NEWS AND VIEWS

	Inland and Overseas
12 Months - - -	17s. 6d.
6 Months - - -	9s.
3 Months - - -	4s. 6d.

Cheques and Postal Orders to be made payable to the distributors: Central Books Ltd., 2 Parton Street, London, W.C.1.

Women Shop Stewards

THE first conference of women Shop Stewards ever to be held in Britain took place on October 5 at the Holborn Hall, London.

Thirty-two factories in the Greater London area were represented by 35 Shop Stewards and 21 Trade Union representatives.

In an opening statement, Miss Peggy Stanton said that the conference was part of a larger movement called by the National Shop Stewards' Council in order to help improve production to win the war, and to get better conditions. In this war Shop Stewards have a great part to play in defeating Fascism. "We women have a special part to play in this, particularly with regard to production."

In order to overcome the men's hostility to women in the factories, women had to prove that they are not an army of blacklegs but are there to help win the war and help maintain the conditions that have been won by the men after a long, hard fight. Organisation and increased production go hand in hand, she emphasised. "In the last war, the most strongly organised factory, Parkhead Forge, had the highest output per head of any factory in the country." Women Shop Stewards have to realise that they have the same problems as men Shop Stewards plus some special problems, such as shopping, and providing nurseries for young children.

Speaker after speaker emphasised that the women workers are dead keen to increase production. What they resent and fight against are bad conditions that interfere with their efficiency, and bad management which keeps them idle for hours on end. Several delegates said that they felt the need for fuller and more exact information about their rights and duties. In this connection one speaker drew attention to the great value of the paper "New Propellor."

The Conference ended with a unanimous endorsement of the recent resolution of the National Council of Shop Stewards.

Points raised on questions and discussion were:

A delegate from Sunbeam-Talbot said that some time ago a number of girls in her factory took Saturday afternoon off for shopping. For this, the management suspended them for three days. Had they a right to do this? Another delegate wanted to know whether they could be compelled to work Saturday one week, Sunday the next.

In her reply, Peggy Stanton pointed out that the workers' rights in these matters depended mainly on how well they were organised. A strong Union could negotiate an agreement on almost any matter and enforce it. (*See note.*)

A delegate from the B.S.A. works at Ruislip said that when she went there nine months ago, they had "no heat, no water, no cloakrooms, no first aid, and a lousy canteen." Three women started to organise for trade union conditions. Now there are 600 in the Unions, they have a marvellous first aid and good A.R.P., and they have negotiations with the management once a week. "Invariably we get what we want after a lot of arguing," she said.

A delegate from Fairey's said that neither the men nor the women used to be organised, but the women organised themselves in a Trade Union and got certain things that the men had not been able to get. The men then followed their example and there is now a union of men and women, which has tackled and solved all manner of problems and, among other things, has got £23 back pay for two women who had not been paid the proper rate.

NOTE.—The employers' right to suspend workers for three days is NOT an indiscriminate power. Workers can be suspended only *in accordance* with the conditions of their employment, *i.e.*, *according to* the terms of the contract; *or* the rule book of the firm; *or* the *recognised* customs of the firm or industry.

Youth Organises for Victory

WHILE the women Shop Stewards were in conference at Holborn Hall, young workers met at Toynbee Hall for a National Conference on "Young Workers and Production for Victory."

One hundred factories sent 240 young delegates. The chairman was Joe Goss. Dick Nettleton, National Secretary of the Shop Stewards' National Council, was the main speaker. The Lord Provost of Glasgow, P. J. Dollan, sent a message of encouragement.

Speakers made it clear that they did not regard the problem of increasing production as a problem for youth in particular. It was a problem for the whole of the working class.

But the young workers had, first of all, a particularly strong *interest in victory.* ("We are only at the beginning of our life. Under Hitler, spying, slavery and death would be our future.") They had, at the same time, a great deal of *responsibility* for increasing production in order to achieve that victory. ("We constitute a large proportion of Britain's industrial army.") And, on the other hand, they had certain problems and difficulties which applied only, or in a special way, to youth.

One of these special problems was absenteeism, higher among young people than among adults. "We must carry out a tremendous campaign to stop this immediately."

Another problem particularly affecting young people was the need for technical and trade training. This was essential both for improving production now and for a successful long-term industrial policy.

Other problems were wages and hours of work. A demand should be made for wages high enough to maintain the health of the young workers and to give them an incentive to put their heart and soul into the job. On the question of hours, they supported the A.E.U. demand for a 40-hour week for lads under 16, and a limit of six hours overtime for lads under 18. This would prevent the fatigue that led to a fall in production.

A resolution was passed pledging full support to the Shop Stewards in their effort to sweep away everything that stands in the way of production. Believing that the energy and enthusiasm of youth will make this support a powerful force, they asked the Shop Stewards to enlist it by concerning themselves with youth's special problems: namely, wage rates, hours of work, and technical training.

A message of greetings was sent from the conference to the young people of the Soviet Union.

National Conference

THE National Conference of Shop Stewards, which meets at the Stoll Theatre, London, on October 19, will bind together and develop the results of the above and of local conferences. It will survey the whole range of production and factory problems. The enthusiasm of Tank Week, the urgent needs of the present situation will dominate the thoughts of all delegates. From the previous discussions it is already clear that production questions are being discussed in an extremely positive and self-critical mood. This conference, which is of the greatest importance to the whole nation, will take these discussions yet further, and show how British workers intend to answer the Nazi threat to Moscow.

Italians do not want to Fight

By SERGIO TOSCANI

ITALY has been at war fifteen months. During this period Italian fascism has suffered three major defeats.

As a result of its military defeats in Greece, Libya and East Africa, Italian Fascism has lost the battle for empire, the creation of which was, according to fascist propagandists, to have marked the beginning of a "free and happy life." The second major defeat lies in the fact that Mussolini's notorious creation, the "Corporative State," has proved incapable of satisfying the essential needs of the war industry, the army and the civil population. The economic collapse and failure of the fascist policy of autarchy is a fact. Finally Italy has lost its national independence. This constitutes the third major defeat. The Italian war machine is controlled by Germans; German troops occupy numerous strategic points both on the Italian peninsula and in Tripolitania. Italy's economy is wholly dependent on the raw materials which she may receive from Germany or the occupied countries. These three defeats have greatly aggravated all the contradictions in Italy.

In this unstable and troubled atmosphere the anti-fascist sentiments of the labouring masses, the anti-fascist tendencies of former Liberal and Catholic opposition groups, and the dissatisfaction of many fascist circles who are humiliated and offended at Italy's conversion into a vassal of Hitler Germany, are coming to the fore simultaneously. The new powerful factor—the Soviet-German war—is aggravating the already profound contradictions in Italian policy. Broader masses of Italians than ever before are condemning the fascist regime, condemning Mussolini and openly protesting against German interference in Italian affairs. From acts of sabotage the labouring people are going over to the non-fulfilment of orders and decrees of State officials and decisions of the Fascist Party, while in the army they are refusing to carry out the commands of fascist officers. Mussolini is obliged to undertake defensive measures at home as well as at the front.

The conditions of the working people have become more difficult as a result of the exorbitant rise in the prices of food and staple goods. The average monthly earnings of the Italian worker is about 675 lira, while a minimum of 1,000 lira is required to live, not counting rent or clothing. A hungry, terrible winter lies ahead. The Italian people have not had meat for two months. "Il Sole," organ of the big bourgeoisie, writes that despite the measures adopted "the war completely exhausted the army's source of meat supplies which further aggravates the chronic meat shortage." Starting with September 15, all supplies of rusks were confiscated for the army. The sale of shoes, clothing and other articles of mass consumption has been limited.

A part of the officer corps is opposed to the alliance with Germany and resists Nazi interference in Italian affairs. A fairly large section of industrialists and big tradesmen are also against the Nazis because the markets are now German controlled, while the raw materials are delivered to Italian industry and the army only on the orders from Berlin. Also Italian business is being crushed in the Balkans by the German trusts.

The reluctance of Italians to continue the war is also shown by prisoners taken on the Eastern Front. "What could we do," said one, "If you don't want to fight, you get shot. If you fight you get killed. It's a good thing one can surrender and become a prisoner. The majority of us think so."

Spaniards Against Hitler

A message adopted at an illegal meeting of Communist Party delegates representing a large region of SPAIN *reads:*

"TO Comrade Stalin and all the peoples of the U.S.S.R. The invading forces that have carried out a criminal attack upon your soil are the same that in combination with the Franco falangists organised the uprising on July 18, 1936, against the Spanish People's Republic, trampling under foot our country and her liberty, well-being and progress; and subjugating her to shameful slavery and medieval terror.

It was you, Comrade Stalin, it was the people who form a new triumphant socialist world who made your own the liberating cause which our beloved people defended against the most reactionary and retrogressive forces of the world. Our Spanish people, our true people, feel the criminal aggression of the enemies, their advance against the peaceful people who form the new triumphant socialist world, as an aggression against themselves.

We make our own the cause you are defending, because it is our cause, because it is the cause of all people who love their liberty and who struggle for well-being, peace and progress. Because of lack of unity against the traitors, like Casado, we were defeated in our struggle for liberation. Your people march unitedly, steadfast and confident. And just as you, Comrade Stalin, have led them victoriously in the construction of Socialism against all internal and external enemies, today you will lead them to rapid victory over our enemies.

In our country the so-called Blue Division has been formed and the Franco press announces that another one will follow. Who comprises this division?—degenerate criminals from the lowest depths of society. We, the most healthy and honest of our people, shall form only one division—the division of victory—and together with the peoples of the U.S.S.R. and the allied peoples, together with the Red Army and Allied Armies, we shall march like lightning against our common enemy, Nazism, and its partners.

Long live the peoples who are fighting for progress and humanity. Long live the armies that are liberating the peoples from the yoke of the dark forces which try to subject humanity to a medieval regime! Long live the peoples of the U.S.S.R.! Long live the Spanish People's Republic!"

Desertions on Northern Front

Every day dozens of Finnish and German soldiers and officers voluntarily surrender to Soviet units. On September 18 and 19, 51 German soldiers of one battalion surrendered to Soviet troops, 47 Finnish soldiers also surrendered at the same point of the front. Groups of German soldiers come over to the Red Army every day. At one point of the front 21 German soldiers of the 388th infantry regiment forced their battalion commander, Oberlieutenant Bordeleben, to raise the white flag and then, taking along the Lieutenant, they crossed to Soviet territory. Most of these men were reservists, industrial workers from Central Germany. All of them had Soviet leaflets, some of them 2-3 copies.

Resistance in French Morocco

"The mass of the population," writes the *Manchester Guardian* on October 10, "has nothing but contempt for the Vichy agents and tools." The Sultan has refused to sign the anti-Semitic decrees. Arabs and Jews are working together against Nazi domination.

£10,000 Smash Hitler Fund Now £14,660

THE £10,000 Fund has closed with £4,660 13s. more than we asked for. The working people of Britain have given this striking evidence of their faith in the Communist Party, and this tribute to the tremendous campaign we are carrying out for maximum help for the Soviet Union, for the full mobilisation of the British people, and for the creation of the Second Front. They have given this money because they understand, in ever increasing numbers, that our Party has a unique and vital part to play in mobilising and inspiring the masses of the people, which no other organisation can play.

We want to thank all those who have given to the Fund, all those who have persuaded others to give, and all those who have helped in the organisation work which raising such a sum of money entails.

We do not know where to begin because so many of the contributors to our fund, and the letters that have come with them, have revealed such a deep and strong understanding of the mighty issues which we are facing. We have had contributions from trade union branches, showing the increasing call for unity of the working-class organisation, in spite of the many obstacles which are still placed in the way. We have had collecting cards sent in from factories, ruled back and front into tiny spaces, each one filled in with a considerable and not easily spared donation, from the workers who are right up against the problems of production. Old age pensioners have sent us their money; and dependants of men in the armed forces. And most significant of all letter after letter from men in the forces themselves, sending us the few pence that they can spare, because they believe in our campaign for the Second Front, although they know full well what it means for themselves in danger and sacrifice.

We also thank all those who have played a part in organising this successful appeal, the scores and hundreds of comrades up and down the country who have done the hard work which was inevitable in raising so large a sum in small donations; collectors in the factories, group, Branch and District Treasurers of the Communist Party, and many others.

All who have given and have worked will understand how necessary this success was for the work of our Party. You may see some of the results in new and better forms of propaganda, more meetings, posters, loud speaker vans, and so on. Other results like the training of Party workers, educating and organisational improvement may be less obvious, but they are just as necessary and just as important. You have made them possible, by your work and by your sacrifice. Thank you one and all.

HARRY POLLITT.

Message to Russian Miners

THE undersigned miners' representatives, acting in their personal capacity, have sent the following telegram to the Russian miners:

"In this critical hour in the fate of British and Russian people in the struggle against the Fascist murderers who have invaded your country, we greet you and thank you for the magnificent stand and sacrifices that you have made, and which world humanity can never fully repay.

We pledge ourselves to do all in our power to achieve the opening up of a Second Front in the West, so that the British and Russian armies may together crush Hitler by their joint pincer movement.

"We pledge ourselves to do everything in our power to see that the British mines produce all the coal necessary to keep our war industries going at full speed to enable both the British and Russian armies to be supplied with an unceasing flow of war material.

"We remember with gratitude the comradely assistance you gave the British miners in 1926, and we are confident that in 1941 the miners will repay their Russian comrades a thousandfold, and that together we can obliterate the Fascist thugs and barbarians from the face of the earth, thus opening the way to a new and brighter future.

Signed: A. L. Horner, President, S.W.M.F. Executive Council, M.F.G.B.; William Pearson, President, Lanarkshire Miners' Union; William Allan, Executive Council, Northumberland Miners' Association; Abe Moffat, Executive Committee, National Union of Scottish Miners; John Crane, Sub Check Weighman, Pit Inspector, Tilmanstow, Kent; Bert Wynn, Chairman, Shipley Branch, Derbyshire Miners' Association; Evan J. Evans, Executive Council, S.W.M.F.; D. R. Llewellyn, Executive Council, S.W.M.F.; Jack Davies, Miners' Agent, S.W.M.F.; George Reay, Member, Boldon Lodge, D.M.A.

Edinburgh's Call to Arms

ALL over the East Coast of Scotland, local Campaign Committees were set up last week to mobilise the public for action now in support of a second front, increased production, and medical aid for Russia.

The creation of these local committees was the first concrete result of a great British-Soviet Unity Conference held in Edinburgh, on October 4-6. This Conference was planned as a "call to arms."

There were over 300 delegates, representing 30 Trade Union branches, 22 Co-operative Guilds, 20 cultural and religious organisations, 9 Trades Councils, 8 Co-operative Societies and 6 Labour Party branches.

The speakers were James Barbour, of the Scottish Mineworkers; Beatrix Lehmann, the famous actress; Professor B. Farrington, expert on Soviet Health Services; Kingsley Martin, Editor of "The New Statesman and Nation"; William Gallacher, M.P.; Eric Baume, European Editor of the Australian and New Zealand "Truth" newspapers (not to be confused with the English "Truth"); and W. P. Earsman, J.P., whom you may have heard last week broadcasting his talk, "A Scot in the Red Army."

The Conference itself was simply one of the high-spots in a continuous campaign.

As part of the campaign, the Edinburgh Committee have produced an excellent 16-page pamphlet (price 2d.) entitled "Edinburgh Stands With Moscow." It contains, for example, an authoritative article by Commander Edgar Young, R.N., giving the political and strategic reasons for opening a second front.

Signatures on being collected for a pledge:

"We citizens of Edinburgh send greetings to the peoples of the U.S.S.R. . . . We pledge ourselves to give our skill and resources for the overthrow of Nazism and Fascism and to co-operate with the Soviet peoples, in every way, to attain victory."

Editorial No. 42

Now is the Chance to Attack in the West

HOW much longer are the Russians to fight Hitler alone? Why does Britain not throw the full weight of her army, navy and air force against Hitler from the West? Increasing numbers of the British people have been asking these questions, and the desperate situation on the Eastern Front this last week has brought the issue to a head. The Red Army is fighting heroically against nine-tenths of the Nazi forces. Britain is sitting back, applauding, sending and planning to send increasing quantities of supplies to Russia, but not taking *the decisive action in the West which would relieve the pressure on our ally, and rouse new allies into action all over Europe.*

* * *

AS Mr. H. G. Wells said in the *Sunday Dispatch* of October 12, "reactionary propaganda gets into a great fuss at the mere idea of attempting any sort of landing on the Continent." All those reactionaries whose hearts are not in the Anglo-Soviet alliance are doing their best to discredit the idea of a Western Front. Their complete prostration before Hitler is shown most clearly by those who say we can't possibly invade Western Europe, and we must keep all we have in Britain because Hitler at any moment may invade Britain! This legend of Hitler's infinite power suits the Nazi plans, and lays the basis for surrender and treachery. *But Hitler's strength lies precisely in the fact that he is still able to take his enemies one by one; divide his forces, and he is no longer invincible.*

* * *

AS far back as August 29, *The Aeroplane* wrote in an Editorial: "Throughout the Russian campaign, the German programme of strategic bombing against Great Britain has shrunk to negligible proportions. There has been no such convincing proof throughout the war of Germany's inability to deal with two major tasks at the same time. Even the submarine war against Great Britain has died away with the need to throw nearly everything against Russia." The Soviet naval paper *Red Fleet*, in an article given in full on another page of this issue, developed this argument further, showing that "Today, as never before, Hitler is extremely vulnerable in the West." Is it true that Britain has not the wherewithal in men and equipment to make an attack in the West? The reactionaries shelter behind the veil of military secrets: but H. G. Wells calls attention to publicity for "Britain's Mechanised Might, the Imposing Spectacle of a Complete Armoured Division as seen by His Majesty." It is common knowledge, underlined by articles in *The Aeroplane*, that our air strength has grown considerably in recent months, even allowing for planes sent to Russia. The reactionaries say we must go on building up strength—which in plain language means that we must wait until Hitler turns his full force on us. But if he is allowed to do that, his strength will be overwhelmingly greater, no matter how much we have built up ours. *The joint strength of the Allies can only become effective if it is used at the same time, and that time is NOW.*

* * *

BUT an attack in the West would mean heavy British sacrifices? Yes, but not nearly so heavy as they would be if, by standing aside at this moment, we allow Hitler to maintain his full pressure on the Russian defences, and give him the opportunity to recover during the winter and turn his renewed strength against Britain. Fascism can't be fought without sacrifices. Wasn't Chamberlain's main argument against helping the Spanish people that any British action might bring war? Didn't he recommend Munich as the way to avoid war? And aren't those who sincerely refuse to face up to the need of an attack in the West simply allowing themselves to be deceived by the same fatal policy of "non-intervention"?

* * *

OPPONENTS of the Western Front say, in effect, that only the Government knows the facts, and it says no action is possible. But this does not satisfy, in this hour of crisis for Russia and for ourselves, very great numbers of the people. And as city after city of Russia is taken by the concentrated Nazi forces, action in the West becomes such a clear necessity *for ourselves as well as for Russia* that the demand for it is getting more insistent and sustained. The Government will be compelled to reconsider its decision, and to stop allowing itself to be guided by military experts who in the past have always been too late.

* * *

TRUE, substantial help is going to Russia. Lord Beaverbrook's broadcast confirmed earlier reports of the outcome of the Moscow Conference. And his statement that the carrying out of what he promised Stalin depends on the British workers is true. It depends on their efforts, but not only their labour—it depends also on their political determination. They have to sweep away all barriers to increased production. Colonel Moore-Brabazon is Minister of Aircraft Production; his hope that the Russians and Germans would exterminate one another received wide publicity; now he has decided against a "Planes for Russia" week, on the flimsy pretext that Russia would not want all the types we produce. Yet he knows, as the workers who put forward the proposal know, that a "Planes for Russia" week would greatly increase production. Therefore the workers suspect that his objection is not technical, but that—like the objection to the Western Front—it is political.

* * *

THOSE who really want to see full military as well as economic co-operation by Britain with Russia in the fight to destroy Hitler have a clear job to do. They must rouse the workers round them, and the whole people, to the maximum productive effort and at the same time the maximum political effort to secure British action in the West. Resolutions and telegrams have been pouring into the Government from factories and meetings of all kinds; they must become an irresistible flood.

Emile Burns.

October 14, 1941.

Anti-Hitler Forces will keep Growing

The following important estimate of the situation was published as an editorial in the COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL:

HITLER'S war in the West, which preceded his perfidious attack on the U.S.S.R., did not bring him victory. His blitzkrieg stake was beaten. Individual "blitz" operations brought only a prolonged and drawn-out war. Relatively weak on the seas, Fascist Germany could not break the stubborn resistance of Britain, the world's greatest sea power. Hitler's war against Britain had reached a stalemate. He was faced with the perspective of a drawn-out war which would make all his conquests in Europe unstable, increase his difficulties at home, intensify Germany's international isolation, and thus threaten his whole robber attack with collapse.

Having failed to win the battle of Britain, Hitler tried to find a way out of the *cul de sac* into which he had dragged Germany, by plunging her into war against the Soviet Union—his latest and most criminal adventure. By looting the U.S.S.R. the fascist thugs hoped to procure the strategic raw materials, oil and grain necessary to see them through their war with Britain and help them to prepare their attack on the United States of America. But the rapacious war against the U.S.S.R. did not ease Hitler's position; it only threw things into hopeless confusion. Hitler's attack on the U.S.S.R. marks the turning point for fascist Germany, but not the kind of turning point the gang of Nazi chieftains would like to see. For Hitler Germany, the war against the U.S.S.R. marks a turn towards the exhaustion of her forces and the steady depletion of her resources.

It is a turn from the temporary growth of the Reich's war potential, achieved by means of easy victories, to a lowering and continuous reduction of her vital reserves and war potentialities. It is a turn from temporary tactical advantages won by Hitler to final strategic routing and defeat.

HISTORY shows that long wars are always won by the side whose forces grow in the course of the war, and are lost by that side that is not in a position to make good the losses inflicted by the adversary, unable to find new industrial, raw material and food sources and enlist the support of powerful allies—in a word, is unable to secure the continuous growth of its material and man-power forces so as to have a decisive superiority over the enemy. A graphic example is that of the world war of 1914-1918.

There can be no doubt that in the present war victory will be with the side which brings into action ever-increasing and superior material, man power, and moral and political forces. An analysis of the forces at the disposal of both sides, an analysis of their possibilities of growth and accumulation, reveals that Hitler Germany is at a disadvantage with regard to this factor which is decisive for the outcome of the war.

NOTWITHSTANDING her temporary success, achieved by the perfidious and sudden attack on the the U.S.S.R., the general tendency of development is anything but hopeful for Hitler Germany. Her reserves of man power for replenishing the armies at the front are limited. Even now Germany cannot provide new reserves without upsetting the functioning of her economic apparatus.

Hitler is unable to mobilise men in the enslaved countries. The shot fired by Paul Colette in France shows what sad results are obtained by the miserable attempts to recruit even a few hundred mercenaries to parade as "volunteers." Hitler's so-called allies provide him with armies only under pressure of direct threats. Moreover, the men of these "allied" armies do not evince any great desire to fight in the war against the Soviet Union. They know that this war is Hitler's war and that their countries have much to lose and nothing to gain from it.

THE Soviet Union is making thorough preparations for its first war winter, while Hitler Germany contemplates its third war winter with horror. Crack Nazi divisions made up of picked cut-throats are being annihilated in hard-fought battles against the Soviet army. The rank and file German who is called to replace them and who has not yet acquired the experience of a criminal in the Hitler gang is tormented by endless doubts why he must give his life in this war. All of this cannot but result in weakening the striking power of fascism's technical troops.

The Soviet Union's reserves of man power are inexhaustible: the U.S.S.R. has over double the population of Germany. So far it has called far fewer categories to the colours than Nazi Germany. At the same time Hitler Germany is suffering much heavier losses at the front than the Red Army. The Soviet Union's armed forces receive active support and every possible assistance from the entire population. The moral and political unity of the Soviet people, united as it is around its Government, is cemented by the realisation of the fact that the Soviet people is defending its own native soil, its great Socialist country.

SUPPLYING the Nazi Army is becoming an ever more difficult problem. Even the fascist press is constrained to admit that Hitler's army finds practically nothing in the captured regions of the Soviet Union, for the population destroys all the supplies that could be of use to the fascists in the war. The German communication lines are stretched out over a tremendous distance and are very vulnerable to attacks by Soviet guerilla detachments, which blow up railway lines, attack transports, destroy roads. The fascist High Command devotes ever increasing numbers of troops to protect the rear communications, and is thus more and more scattering its forces. This lengthening of the Nazi communication lines increases the expenditure of petrol, one of Germany's most short-stocked commodities.

The Red Army's communications are maintained and guarded by the whole population, which voluntarily and self-sacrificingly helps in their repair and restoration.

EVEN official German sources admit that since the outbreak of the war against the Soviet Union less food supplies have been available for the German population. The Occupied Countries which serve Germany as additional supply sources are yielding less food. Yugoslavia, which prior to Hitler's attack fed 10 million Germans, is exhausted by the war. The guerilla war which is so widespread in the country, considerably lessens the possibility of pumping food from Yugoslavia. Italy, Hungary and Rumania are now all belligerents. Finland is starving. The wholesale slaughter of cattle by the fascists in Occupied France, Belgium, Holland and Denmark is already beginning to tell on the meat and fat balance of Hitler Germany.

In the Soviet Union the collective farm system opened up tremendous possibilities for food supplies. Large-scale mechanised farming, such as is employed on the collective farms, permits of effective economy of labour power. In Germany, a country of high technical development, the use of tractors, harvester-combines and other farming machinery is limited, not only by the private nature of agriculture but also by lack of fuel, all of which is required for military purposes. Unlike Germany, the U.S.S.R. has achieved a record harvest this year. All of this is proof of the fact that despite the loss of certain territory the Soviet Union will be far better supplied with food than Germany.

THE aid which Hitler can receive from abroad, from the countries not under his control, is practically nil. The blockade ring around Germany and the occupied countries is tightly closed. The system of patrols and convoys in the Atlantic, set up by the United States, bids fair to reduce to naught the effectiveness of Germany's counter-blockade against Britain. President Roosevelt's orders to the commanders of American ships to shoot without warning at any German submarines or raiders will facilitate the further curtailment of the German counter-blockade. The Soviet Union produces most of the essential strategic raw materials. In addition, the Soviet Union receives aid not only from Great Britain, but from the U.S.A. as well.

GOEBBELS is working his propaganda machine at full blast in an attempt to convince the world that Hitler Germany's strong point is the possibility of utilising the industrial output of occupied Europe. To be sure, Hitler has made part of the industries of France, Belgium and Holland work for his robber war, and the Czechoslovak munition factories are manufacturing war supplies for him. But the degree to which Hitler can utilise the productive apparatus of the enslaved countries for the war effort depends not only on the output capacities and technical equipment. It is primarily a political question. The machines are operated by workers, and these workers are conscious of the fact that they are being forced to work for one who is their bitter enemy. The growing resistance of the people in the countries enslaved by Hitler tends to reduce and will continue to reduce the labour productivity of the workers in these countries. Cases of outright sabotage are multiplying. A tremendous part in this struggle of the workers against the occupation forces is played by the go-slow movement, by the deliberate worsening of the quality and increasing percentage of damaged goods.

Labour productivity is also strongly affected by the food supplies, which are growing worse from day to day. Starvation throughout Europe, now facing the third winter of war, is bound to increase. This in turn cannot but increase the resistance of the people and facilitate the further decrease in labour productivity, both in industry and agriculture.

The war materials which Germany accumulated before the war have for the most part been used up. The new war materials, prepared with the use of "Ersatz," are of inferior quality. Germany's productive apparatus had been operating under great tension for several years prior to the outbreak of the war in 1939. There has been practically no overhauling, no replacing of obsolete machinery. In the first two years of the war capital repairs and replacement of worn-out machines were carried out on a very restricted scale, for Hitler was reckoning on a Blitzkrieg and wanted to produce the maximum in minimum time. The wearing out of industrial machinery is therefore very high. Nor is it less in the transport services, particularly on the railways, which for over two years now have been operating under the super-tension of war-time.

THE Nazis' colossal losses in the war against the Soviet Union compel the German Command to despatch ever-larger numbers of skilled workers to the front to make up for the losses in the military and technical personnel. At the same time, the unprecedented expenditure of war materials requires a larger number of workers in industry to supply the front. Fascist Germany already experiences an acute shortage of labour-power, especially skilled labour. A similar situation exists in agriculture. The forced labour of foreign workers, of whom there are now 3½ millions in Germany, can only somewhat mitigate, but by no means overcome, this sharp crisis. Hitler Germany's crisis in this sphere will, as was the case in the war of 1914-18, grow more acute.

A radically different picture is presented by the Soviet Union. Labour productivity in the U.S.S.R. has not been reduced by the war. The Soviet people is engaged in a just, sacred and patriotic war. It knows what it is fighting for. The people's great patriotic enthusiasm is the source of an unparalleled growth of labour productivity. Every citizen in the Soviet Union, young and old, is imbued with the realisation that this is a war in which the fate of his country, his people and his home are at stake, that the issue is one of the life and liberty of the coming generations. This realisation inspires the Soviet people to great deeds in their work. It inspires the constructive thought of Soviet inventors who design new types of powerful weapons. A mighty wave of labour enthusiasm swept the vast country from the very first moment of Hitler's perfidious attack on the U.S.S.R.

FACED with the grave peril threatening their country, this enthusiasm of the Soviet people is performing miracles. In the factories and mills of the country's heroic cities—Leningrad and Odessa, courageously repelling the enemy's onslaught—the productivity of the Soviet patriots surpasses all technical quotas and makes for new and unprecedented records. Germany's Fascist rulers could never even dream of such an increase in labour productivity and such sincere labour enthusiasm. The curve of labour productivity of the Soviet Union and that of Fascist Germany are stretching in different directions: in Germany it is a dropping curve; in the U.S.S.R. a steeply rising curve.

The Soviet Union's tremendous reserves of raw materials are in essence untouched. These are scattered over the vast territory of the Soviet Union. It was the brilliant foresight of Stalin that enabled the Soviet people to set up powerful industrial bases in the heart of their huge country. The Stalin Five-Year Plans have transformed what were formerly desolate territories in the East into centres of iron, coal and oil industries. Deep behind the lines, in districts inaccessible to the enemy, the Soviet people has tremendous possibilities for production. Its unswerving will to victory, its fighting spirit and organising talent, are all a pledge that these potentialities will be used to the full in crushing Fascism.

AS long as Hitler scored easy victories he could still enlist "allies" by bringing pressure to bear on the rulers of the individual countries, who were intimidated by the might of Hitler's war-machine and who hoped to get a share in his war booty. But when Hitler came up against the stiff resistance of the Red Army his position

changed radically: not only has the time passed when allies could be "recruited," but in the very camp of his old "allies" a deep cleavage has come to the surface. On the other hand the opportunities to utilise his agents in the occupied countries will become very much less. Even today it is perfectly clear that Hitler's agents in France, Belgium, Holland, Norway, Yugoslavia and other countries, all these Lavals, Deats, Musserts, Quislings and Pavelichs, have suffered shameful bankruptcy. Far from helping them to extend their influence over the masses, the support of German bayonets has actually accelerated their final exposure as paid agents of foreign imperialism and as detestable traitors to their nation. Germany's Fascist armies and occupation authorities are surrounded by fierce hatred of the peoples who with every passing day are strengthening their struggle against Hitler's yoke.

THE Soviet Union is not alone in its war against Hitler Germany. The U.S.S.R., which is today repelling the main blows of Hitler's hordes, has entered into a military agreement with Great Britain. The relations between the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A. have become closer. The entrance of Soviet and British troops into Iran has obviated the danger that the country was becoming a base for Fascist Germany's operations, and has enhanced the strategic and political positions both of the Soviet Union and Great Britain. This cannot but be reflected in the policy of other countries. The epic struggle of the Soviet people against Hitlerism evokes among the peoples of the world a supreme feeling of solidarity with the U.S.S.R. All Slav peoples are rallying around their older brother, the great Russian people. The nations oppressed by Hitler derive fresh strength for the fight against the invaders from the inspiring example of the Soviet people.

Thus not only in the economic, but in the political sphere as well, the forces of the U.S.S.R. and of the world anti-Hitler front are on the upgrade, they are continuously growing. "The united front of the nations who stand for freedom and against enslavement and the threat of enslavement by Hitler's armies," envisaged by Stalin at the very outset of the Soviet people's patriotic war, is becoming an ever more real and effective force which the insolent Fascist bandits will soon feel much more tellingly than now.

BUT the Soviet people know that victory does not come of itself, that it must be won in stubborn battle. This is taught us by the great Stalin and it is particularly important to recall this today, when we are faced by such a brutal and insidious foe as German Fascism. Victory demands a tireless and tenacious struggle—it is this irrefutable truth that the peoples of Europe, enslaved by Hitler, the people of America, over whose liberty and independence the sword of Hitlerism is raised, are learning more and more. Armed with this knowledge and led by Stalin's genius and Stalin's will, the Soviet people will be victorious. And together with them the peoples of the world will win their victory.

Gifts for the Red Army

The People's Convention appeal for gifts for the Red Army to be sent to the Consul General of the U.S.S.R., 3 Rosary Gardens, London, S.W.7. Gift parcels should contain primarily, warm underwear, socks, gloves, woollen apparel, shaving tackle, soap, towels, handkerchiefs, food concentrates, biscuits, chocolate, tobacco. No perishable foodstuffs must be sent. Sender's letters will be forwarded.

British-Soviet Unity

By R. BISHOP

RANK and file, Conservatives, Liberals and Labour men, as well as Communists are striving at the leash to express their solidarity with their Russian ally. The amazing response to Tank Week was but one manifestation of the spirit that prevails. In every town in Britain, British-Soviet activity of one kind or another is afoot, but too often the organisers do not themselves appreciate the widespread solidarity that exists, and therefore do not plan their campaigns in a spirit of confidence which will really gather in all the latent enthusiasm that waits to be garnered.

In some places, however, real unity has been established. In the London Borough of St. Pancras, for instance, the Mayor took the initiative, and a committee was formed which has already carried out a gigantic demonstration, bringing in every section of the civil and military population of the Borough, including representatives of the Free French forces. On the platform at Parliament Hill Fields were Labour, Conservative and Communist speakers.

Windsor is not a large town, but it has a symbolic significance. It has shown how really representative activities in support of the Soviet alliance can be made. Convened by the Mayor, a Committee representative of the whole town has organised a week's activity which might well be the envy of a far larger centre. On the Saturday, the players from Unity Theatre, London, will perform a Soviet play (*Distant Point*) in the Conservative Club. On the Sunday, mention of the Soviet Union will be made in all the Churches. On Monday the Rotary Club is arranging a meeting. Tuesday is Health Day, with Anglo-Soviet activities sponsored by the Red Cross, with Dr. Joan McMichael speaking. Wednesday is Women's Day, with special meetings for women, and a dance in the evening. Every woman's organisation in Windsor, including the W.V.S. is participating. Thursday is to be devoted to an exhibition of Soviet culture (sponsored by S.C.R.), with a visit of a ballet troupe. Windsor Guildhall is the scene of a meeting on Social Services in the U.S.S.R. to be addressed by W. J. R. Squance, President of the Russia Today Society. A Soviet film will be shown at a meeting at the Conservative Club on the second Saturday, to be addressed by Albert Inkpin (General Secretary of R.T.D.) and the Mayor of Windsor, whilst the week winds up with a concert of nationally known artistes at the Theatre Royal.

No single organisation in Windsor has stood aloof. What a contrast to Leeds, where the Labour Party refused permission to one of its members to speak at a huge Russia Today meeting in the Town Hall. The reason? Because R.T.D. is a "banned organisation." The same disgraceful refusal was made at Rutherglen, at an R.T.D. meeting, which was supported by the Conservative Party, the Co-operative Party and the Trades Council.

Up and down the country a handful of people like Frank Owen, Sir Charles Trevelyan and others, are addressing giant gatherings on a non-Party basis, but if a Communist is included in the list of speakers, then pressure is brought to bear on Labour Party M.P.s and others to prevent them participating. Some have defied the blackmail; others have not.

The need for real Unity Committees is urgent. There are none who can be spared from the great task of developing the Soviet alliance as a living reality in the minds and in the daily activity of the entire population.

India

The following resolution has been adopted by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Great Britain:

THE Central Committee of the Communist Party of Great Britain sends greetings to the Indian people in the present critical moment for the future of both peoples.

The war on the Soviet Union has aroused the deepest feelings of all Colonial and oppressed peoples. That great country where people of all races and colours lived in harmonious, economic and cultural unity has always been an inspiration to all of them in their struggle for freedom.

In India, held so long in bondage to British Imperialism, this regard and friendship has been continuously manifested by the great mass of the Indian people.

During all the years of Fascism's extending offensive, the Indian National Movement played a great and honourable part in the international struggle of the peoples, in association with the Soviet Union and with the progressive forces of all nations, for a world Peace Front or world alliance of the peoples to check Fascism. They denounced the reactionary policy which refused alliance with the Soviet Union and thus made war inevitable.

Today the British-Soviet Alliance has at last been established and the world alliance of the peoples against Fascism is being built up.

The world conflict which has now opened, will determine the fate of all peoples. The victory of Nazi Germany and its Axis partners would mean not only the enslavement of the peoples of Europe, but also a worse slavery of the people of India than anything that they have ever known before.

The victory of the alliance of the peoples in association with the Soviet Union means not only the liberation of the nations enslaved by Fascism, but the most favourable world conditions for the final liberation of the Indian people and all nations under foreign domination.

The greatest responsibility now rests on the peoples of both our countries to find the way to co-operate in this common struggle.

We are confident that the masses of the Indian people and all their most progressive leaders will recognise that today the path to Indian independence lies through the victory of the Soviet Union and its allies over Fascism.

But a special responsibility rests on all who believe in freedom in this country.

At the present moment the Government holds over 12,000 political prisoners in gaol in India. The most recent declarations of the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for India have made clear that they do not regard the Atlantic Charter, with its promise of self-determination of nations, as applying to India. The Government refuses to negotiate with the National Congress as the representative of the majority of the Indian nation, and encourages every reactionary clique and faction in order to divide the people.

These reactionary policies hinder the co-operation of the Indian people in the common struggle. It is our responsibility in Britain to fight to overcome these obstacles.

Let the Government release all political prisoners in India and enter into new sympathetic negotiations with the National Congress to find a basis of co-operation in the present conflict.

Let the voice of the entire Labour movement and of all anti-Fascist democrats press this demand upon the Government.

We of the Communist Party pledge ourselves to do all in our power to awaken the British people to their responsibility in relation to India, and to assist in every way the building up of the common front of the peoples.

The unity of the British, American, Soviet, Chinese and Indian peoples, along with the peoples now under Hitler's rule—this is the path to victory over Fascism. This is the path to the liberation of all peoples.

COMMUNIST PARTY REQUESTS LICENCE TO PUBLISH DAILY PAPER

THE following letter has been sent by the Secretariat of the Communist Party to the Minister of Supply:

"Dear Sir,—I wish to apply, on behalf of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, for the granting of a licence permitting the publication of a daily newspaper, in accordance with the conditions set out in the Control of Paper (No. 32) Order, which authorises the Minister of Supply to take this action 'if it is proved to his satisfaction that special circumstances exist.'

"In the case of the Communist Party, I wish to submit that the 'special circumstances' are the fact that it is the only political party supporting the prosecution of the war against Hitlerite Germany that has no opportunity of expressing its views through the medium of a daily newspaper, and it is therefore unable to play its full part in influencing those sections of the population that are likely to respond to its appeal, particularly the industrial workers who have such a vital part to play at this moment in the sphere of production.

"The Communist Party is aware of the paper shortage and the consequent necessary limitations on making paper available for a new daily newspaper. But we understand that, as in the case of the new foreign language daily newspapers, you are prepared to grant a licence when you consider that circumstances justify it. We are, of course, ready to accept the restrictions on circulation that you may consider necessary.—Yours faithfully, THE SECRETARIAT."

"WORKING-CLASS EDUCATION IN WARTIME"

THE whole history of the Trade Union Movement has shown the value of working-class education, states Marx House. Now that vast new forces are coming into industry and being recruited to the Unions, the need is greater than ever for special education in the principles and history of Trade Unionism and in the principles of Socialism.

It is this need which has prompted Marx House to work out a new comprehensive scheme of elementary Marxist education.

This scheme will be launched at the Marx House Conference on "Working-Class Education in Wartime," at which Mr. Arthur Horner, President of the South Wales Miners' Federation, will be the main speaker. The Conference will be held on Saturday, October 18, 1941, at 3 p.m., at the Holborn Hall, Gray's Inn Road, W.C.1. Working-class organisations have been asked to send delegates, and visitors have also been invited.

What About It, Churchill?

"If we lose the spirit of adventure, the will to attack, and the desire to get our own back for France, Greece and Crete—Heaven help us! I cannot believe that the descendants of those who fought under Marlborough and Wellington are going to be condemned for long to the ignoble role of sitting in trenches and pill-boxes round the shores of Britain."

Major-General Sir Andrew McCulloch, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., D.C.M., in the *Volunteer for Liberty*, October, 1941.

Labour Takes over in Australia

By BELL KEATS

THE coming into office of a Labour Government in Australia is the climax of a two years' bitter struggle, and marks a step forward for the working class and progressive movement.

The first eighteen months of the war were marked by growing unrest and an ever-developing strike wave, affecting all industries throughout Australia. The anti-working-class policy pursued during these months by the Menzies' Government had made the Premier the most hated man in Australian politics, and had discredited in the eyes of the workers all those associated with him. The Labour landslide in the March elections in New South Wales was a clear indication of the growing opposition to Menzies.

It was not without justification that *The Ironworker*, official organ of the Federated Ironworkers' Association of Australia, said in June this year:

> "The people do not trust the rule of Messrs. Menzies, Fadden, Spender & Co. The Australian people want Labour to take office."

The attack of Nazi Germany on the Soviet Union, and the consequent Anglo-Soviet Alliance, which Australian workers recognised as making a fundamental change in the character of the war, and in their tasks arising out of the new situation, did not alter their hostility to the Menzies Government. For Menzies' record during the past ten years had inevitably made him a suspect man with genuine anti-fascists. Not only did the Australian people remember him as a Man of Munich, and an appeaser of Japan, but also they knew him as the man who outlawed the Communist Party and banned its press. They knew him as the man who defended Sir Ronald Cross when the latter made a "Moore-Brabazon" statement in Australia.

The climax to this "black record" was Menzies' refusal to release Horace Ratcliff and Max Thomas, two Communists who were interned for "subversive activity."

> "Nothing that Menzies and Spender have ever done has made them so unpopular with the ordinary Australian as their detention of Thomas and Ratcliff. The workers are angry about it and prepared to take any action to show their anger." (*Progress*: July 25, 1941).

So widespread was the feeling that the Official Labour Party Executive unanimously decided to demand the release of Thomas and Ratcliff.

Not without reason did Menzies complain that he was unpopular with the public and the press. The Ronald Cross and the Thomas-Ratcliff incidents, coming swiftly on top of the public outburst aroused by the campaigns in Greece and Crete, and the growing tension in the Pacific—now realised as one of the fruits of Menzies' appeasement policy—helped to burst open the Australian political deadlock, and led to the fall of Menzies.

His successor, Fadden, was too closely identified with the past policy of the Menzies Government to hold office for long. Two additional factors helped to bring about his downfall. Firstly, there was the exposure concerning the Government's use of secret funds to "combat Communism in the Trade Union." Secondly, there was the Budget, which dealt leniently with the rich and severely with the less well-off.

Finally, there was the question of opening direct diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union. This demand has been vigorously raised by the Australian Soviet Friendship League. Menzies was opposed to it. That was a black mark against him in the eyes of Australians. Under Fadden, Sir Frederick Stewart, Minister of External Affairs, once indicated that the Government were taking steps in this direction. But in view of the fact that a Minister had long been appointed to Washington, Tokio, and Chungking, the delay in sending one to Moscow caused great dissatisfaction.

The Australian people have now the possibility of big advances. They now have a Government which should prove more responsive to their wishes. But it must be noted that the new Cabinet includes Beasley, leader of the Anti-Communist Labour Party and that Maurice Blackburn, tried and tested Labour leader and anti-fascist fighter, has been expelled from the Labour Party by the Victoria Executive for refusing to dissociate himself from the Australian Soviet Friendship League.

It is to be hoped that the new government will mean a further intensification of the Australian war effort and that it will spread a sense of urgency, resolution and sacrifice.

Youth's Response

REPORTS of the far-reaching results of the anti-Fascist Youth Rally held in Moscow on September 28 continue to filter in.

Rumania

All indications show that the message of the Rally has reached wide circles of the Rumanian Youth. In Bucharest, as soon as some of the students heard the appeal broadcast they called a secret students' conference which decided to make the appeal known to the army and to the youth in the city and villages so as to enlist in the fight against Hitlerism. The appeal is being copied by hand for circulation as well as printed on secret presses.

Czechoslovakia

In Czechoslovakia, despite the police terror, leaflets containing the text of the Rally's appeal were circulated in the streets and factories of Prague, Pilsen, Bruenn and other towns on the night after the rally. Many walls in Prague, particularly in the industrial areas, were chalked with passages from the appeal.

Hungary

One of the many illegal leaflets circulating in Hungary states:

'On behalf of the whole progressive Hungarian Youth and the Rumanian, Ukrainian and Slovak boys and girls residing in Hungary we declare: The whole of progressive Hungary stands firmly on the side of the fighters against the Hitlerite brown-shirt menace.

U.S.A.

In greetings to the anti-Fascist Youth Meeting in Moscow the American Youth Congress Executive Secretary, Miss Williams, wrote:

The Youth Congress Office of a million youth greets your magnificent struggle against the Hitler drive to world conquest. Your heroic fight gives courage and inspiration to the whole world.

Religious Freedom in the U.S.S.R.

As the question of religious freedom in the Soviet Union has recently been raised again, we print below the statements of Lozovsky, the Soviet spokesman and Vice-Chairman Soviet Information Bureau, and of M. Maisky, the Soviet Ambassador, on this point.

(From the speech of I. M. Maisky, Soviet Ambassador, to the American Chamber of Commerce in London, on September 23).

In spite of what is thought by so many, religion in my country is not persecuted, and every citizen has the right to believe or not to believe, according to his or her own conscience. Article 124 of the Stalin Constitution reads:

"In order to ensure to citizens freedom of conscience, the church in the U.S.S.R. is separated from the State, and the school from the church. Freedom of religious worship and freedom of anti-religious propaganda is recognised for all citizens."

This Article is quite clear, and it is by no means a dead letter. Indeed, in 1940, in the U.S.S.R. there were over 30,000 independent religious communities of every kind, over 8,000 churches, and about 60,000 priests and ministers of religion. Believers practise their religions freely, they frequent services, they marry in church, christen their children, have religious funerals, celebrate religious festivals, and elect leaders of their congregations.

The Soviet Government did not, and does not, support any one religion in the U.S.S.R., but it puts at their disposal free of rent premises for religious observance, exempting all such premises from taxation. Soviet courts of law punish those who violate the rights of believers. Priests and ministers of religion enjoy equal rights with all other citizens, in particular, they enjoy electoral rights to the Supreme Soviet and all other electoral institutions of the U.S.S.R. The Orthodox Church has the largest number of followers and is divided at the present time into two chief sections: "The New Church" and "The Old Church," each of which has its own headquarters in Moscow. "The Old Church" extends is influence also to other countries, in particular, to the United States. It is represented there by the Exarch of the Moscow Patriarch, Metropolitan Benjamin. In addition, there are various other groups and denominations in the U.S.S.R., such as Old Believers, Evangelists, Seventh Day Adventists, etc. Many of these denominations also have their headquarters in Moscow. In general there is a considerable variety in the religious life of the U.S.S.R., and no obstacles are put in the way of their activities, as long as they remain in their natural sphere of the human conscience and faith.

I would like to mention here that in the new Polish Army which is being created now on the territory of the U.S.S.R., Roman Catholic chaplains are admitted to administer to the Forces, in accordance with the wishes of the Polish High Command.

However, let us return to the Soviet way of life. Side by side with assuring national and religious freedom, the Soviet Union also stands for the raising of the standard of life and education of the wide masses of the people. It stands for the progress of science and art, for assuring to all the right to work and the right to leisure.

The Soviet Union and Hitlerite Germany represent two entirely antagonistic worlds, and for this reason the Soviet people are fighting, and will fight to the last drop of their blood against the perfidious attack of German Fascism.

The following is the official statement made by Lozovsky at the Press Conference on October 4:

The Soviet public read with great interest President Roosevelt's statement at a Press Conference regarding the freedom of religious worship of Soviet citizens. The President of the U.S.A. clearly pointed to the basic principles of the Constitution of the U.S.S.R. with regard to the question of the freedom of worship in the U.S.S.R.

In the Soviet Union the Church is separated from the State. This means that the State grants no privileges to one or another religion and does not undertake to maintain the Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches, mosques, synagogues, etc., at state expense. The citizens of the same religion form a community which maintains its religious institutions at the expense of the congregation.*

The U.S.S.R. grants the freedom of religious worship. This means that every Soviet citizen is free to worship according to his beliefs. This is a matter of conscience and world outlook of every citizen. Religion is a private affair of every Soviet citizen in which the State does not interfere and does not consider such interference necessary.

The Soviet Constitution grants every citizen not only the right of worship as he chooses, but also the right not to worship and conduct anti-religious propaganda. The legislature of the Soviet Union does not consider it possible to compel the citizens, either to worship or not to worship at all. In this Constitution the U.S.S.R. proceeds from the following: Freedom of worship presupposes that neither religion, church nor community would be utilised for overthrowing the existing government recognised in the country. The policy of the Soviet Union with regard to the religious question is concisely and clearly formulated in Article 124 of the Constitution of the U.S.S.R.

Answering questions, Lozovsky stated that: Soviet citizens not only enjoy the freedom of religious worship, but also have a number of religious bodies, local as well as central. As an example he pointed to the recent World Congress of the Armenian Gregorian Church which elected Catholicos. The Moslem worshippers have two centres at their disposal, one in Ufa, the second in Azerbaidjan. A number of church bodies of the Soviet Union have come out with statements in connection with Hitler's attack on the Soviet Union.

Lozovsky noted that judging from newspapers and other information, the people in the U.S.A. who put particular stress on the question of religion in the Soviet Union and attack Roosevelt from this angle, are those who support Germany and try to utilise the question of religion for this purpose.

* But as Maisky pointed out premises are free of rent and free of taxes.

Unity Theatre Competition

"American playwrights have for sometime been ahead of English playwrights in variety and punch," states Unity Theatre. In order to help overcome this and to stimulate British dramatists Unity is running a play competition in two classes (a) for three act plays; (b) for one act plays. The competition will be judged by Beatrix Lehmann, Patrick Hamilton and Rodney Ackland. Inquiries to Unity Theatre, 1 Goldington Street, London, N.W.1.

Glasgow Russia Week

The decorated tram car of Russia Week

GLASGOW'S Russia Week, organised by the Trades Council and Labour Party, ended as it began with a great popular demonstration on Sunday, October 5, calling for more aid to Russia, a Second Front, and the strengthening of the Government.

Thousands of workers, men and womenfi marched from George Square to the Flesher's Haugh in the afternoon. Thousands more lined the streets for two miles. It was by far the largest demonstration held since the war began, and had it not been for war work in the factories and yards, would, it is clear, have been even larger. For over half an hour the column marched past the saluting base, where Sir Patrick Dollan and others took the salute.

The gaily decorated lorries of the Co-operatives, the pipe bands, the varied Trade Union and Communist Party banners, the International Brigade, the A.F.S., and the outstanding turn-out of the uniformed Corporation transport workers gave colour and variety to the demonstration.

But more important than the colour was its size and unity. No important working-class organisation was absent. There were a number of soldiers and airmen in uniform, Indian seamen, and some others who have never taken part in Labour demonstrations, such as the Scottish Nationalists. Everyone wore the linked Union Jack and Red Flag.

At both the meetings at Flesher's Haugh and at St. Andrew's Hall in the evening there were a number of speakers: John Marchbank, General Secretary N.U.R.; William Leonard, M.P. (St. Rollox); William Elger, Scottish T.U.C., and P. J. Agnew, of the Co-op., and Aneurin Bevan, M.P.

"Now the people of Britain must make their will felt. The war can only be won if we do as the Russians are doing—make it a people's war, fought by the people for the people," said Mr. Bevan.

After calling for a more representative Government, he went on to demand the opening of a second front against Germany.

When Mr. Bevan finished his speech at the St. Andrew's Hall, cheering last for many minutes.

This demonstration was a climax to a week of varied activity, which included a flag day on Saturday, when over £1,000 was raised. Throughout the week a decorated tramcar toured the city, and gave the message of unity with the Soviet Union to a million people.

Parliamentary Points

WOMEN IN INDUSTRY

If the training of women in factories is to continue at its present rate . . . a 30-years' war will produce the requisite number of skilled women. . . .

It would relieve the situation if married women could be brought into industry to work on a system of shifts. Certain industries have made a great success of the system. (Megan Lloyd George).

* * *

COAL MINERS

Up to October 6, 23,000 ex-miners had been accepted by the coalowners under the Registration Scheme. The latest figures showing men actually at work are for September 27, when they are shown at 10,000 face workers and 9,100 others. (Mr. Grenfell).

* * *

OLD AGE PENSIONS

Nearly two-thirds of the total number of old age pensioners are not receiving a supplementary pension. (Ernest Brown).

William Gallacher: Is it not the case that the 'means test is still operating as viciously as ever?

Ernest Brown: I could not accept that.

* * *

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

FIRE WATCHING. A new pamphlet, Workers' Pocket Series, No. 4. (Labour Research Department, 1d.)

HEALTH AND MEDICINE IN THE SOVIET UNION. By Dr. Eva Black. (Russia Today Society, 2d.)

SCORCH THE EARTH. By Patrick Redmond. (C.P.G.B., 3d.)

FACTORY FRONT. By Councillor Jack Owen. (People's Convention Committee, 1d.)

PROBLEMS OF TRADE UNIONISM. By Allen Hutt. (A Marx House Syllabus, 3d.)

U.S.S.R.—THE STRENGTH OF OUR ALLY. Facts, figures, photographs and pictorial statistics. (Lawrence & Wishart, 1/6.)

Obtainable from:
CENTRAL BOOKS LTD.,
2 Parton Street, Red Lion Square,
London, W.C.1.
Telephone: HOLborn 2966

Published weekly by H. GOODMAN, 57 Walter House, Strand, London, W.C. (telephone: TEMple Bar 4640), and printed in Great Britain by the MARSTON PRINTING CO. (*T.U. all depts.*), at Beechwood Rise, Watford. Distributed by CENTRAL BOOKS LTD., 2 Parton Street, London, W.C.1.